

Fast Facts

The Selective Service System
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
National Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2425



WHO MUST REGISTER

Almost all male U.S. citizens, and male aliens living in the U.S., who are 18 through 25, are required to register with Selective Service. It's important to know that even though he is registered, a man will not automatically be inducted into the military. In a crisis requiring a draft, men would be called in sequence determined by random lottery number and year of birth. Then, they would be examined for mental, physical and moral fitness by the military before being deferred or exempted from military service or inducted into the Armed Forces.

A chart of who must register is also available.

NON-CITIZENS

Some non-citizens are required to register. Others are not. Noncitizens who are not required to register with Selective Service include men who are in the U.S. on student or visitor visas, and men who are part of a diplomatic or trade mission and their families. Almost all other male noncitizens are required to register, including illegal aliens, legal permanent residents, and refugees. The general rule is that if a male noncitizen takes up residency in the U.S. before his 26th birthday, he must register with Selective Service. For a more detailed list of which non-citizens must register, see Who Must Register - Chart .

DUAL NATIONALS

Dual nationals of the U.S. and another country are required to register, regardless of where they live, because they are U.S. nationals.

See also Aliens and Dual Nationals - Liability for Service

HOSPITALIZED OR INCARCERATED MEN

Young men in hospitals, mental institutions or prisons do not have to register while they are committed. However, they must register within 30 days after being released if they have not yet reached their 26th birthday.

DISABLED MEN

Disabled men who live at home must register with Selective Service if they can reasonably leave their homes and move about independently. A friend or relative may help a disabled man fill out the registration form if he can't do it himself.

Men with disabilities that would disqualify them from military service still must register with Selective Service. Selective Service does not presently have authority to classify men, so even men with obvious handicaps must register now, and if needed, classifications would be determined later.

Tel. 703-605-4100

FAX 703-605-4106

E-mail: information@sss.gov

Web: <http://www.sss.gov>

July 23, 2008

FULL-TIME MILITARY EXEMPTED FROM REQUIREMENT*

Young men serving in the military on full-time active duty do not have to register. Those attending the service academies do not have to register. However, if a young man leaves the military before turning 26, he must register.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES*

Members of the Reserve and National Guard not on full-time active duty must register.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

Men who would be classified as Conscientious Objectors if they were drafted must also register with Selective Service. If a draft begins and they are called, they would have the opportunity to file a claim for exemption from military service based upon their religious or moral objection to war.

***NOTE:** If a man failed to register with Selective Service, Section 12(g) of the Military Selective Service Act allows non-registrants to receive benefits under specific conditions. As a veteran, or part-time National Guard or Reservist, the man satisfies those conditions with his DD Form 214 showing the dates of his military service, or a current military ID card if still on active duty or a member of the National Guard and Reserves. These documents serve as evidence that the man's failure to register was not knowing and willful. Therefore, men who served on full-time active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces should not be denied student financial aid, loans, or grants; vocational training under WIA; government employment; and security clearances, on the basis of their failure to register with Selective Service. As long as the man has proof of his active duty military service, such as his DD 214, or current military ID card if still on active duty or a member of the National Guard or Reserves, his subsequent failure to register should not be a bar to any benefits or programs, contingent upon registration compliance, for which he is otherwise qualified.

INSTRUCTIONS

For filling out the "Request for Status Information Letter"

SECTION 1:

- Name: you must provide your complete name, and any other names you have ever used. If you have more than one last name, you must provide both names.
- Address: you must include your complete mailing address. Forms received without a mailing address will not be processed.
- Social Security Number: If you have a Social Security Number, you must provide it. Also, if you have ever used a different Social Security Account Number, provide that as well.
- Date of Birth: This form is only for men born after December 31, 1959, who are 26 years old or older. You must provide your complete date of birth.
- Daytime Telephone Number: If possible, provide a telephone number where you can be reached during the day, in case we need to contact you.
- E-mail Address: If possible, provide your e-mail address in case we need to contact you.

SECTION 2:

This section is for explaining and documenting why you did not register with Selective Service. This section consists of five different parts. You must complete and submit documentation for any and all parts that apply to you.

- Military: To obtain proof of military service, you may call the Veteran's Administration at (800) 827-1000, or write to: National Personnel Records Center, GSA, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO, 63132.
- Incarcerated, institutionalized, hospitalized, or confined to home: for each instance, provide type of confinement, dates of confinement, and supporting documentation.

Non Citizen / Alien:

- If you entered the United States for the first time after your 26th birthday, you must provide documentation to support your claim. Valid documentation includes: entry stamp in your passport, I-94 with entry stamp on it, or a letter from the Bureau of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) indicating the date you entered the United States. If you entered the United States illegally after your 26th birthday, you must provide proof that you were not living in the United States from age 18 to age 26. Please note: your Resident Alien Card (Green Card) is not valid as proof of entry to the United States.
- If you entered the United States as a valid non-immigrant alien, and remained in that status to your 26th birthday, you must provide documentation to support your claim. For example, if you entered the United States as an F-1 Student, and remained in that status until your 26th birthday, you would need to provide documentation indicating that you were admitted on an F-1 visa and attended school full-time as required. (Acceptable documents for this situation include copies of your I-20's or a letter from the school you attended indicating your full time attendance as a non-immigrant alien). The same thing applies for all non-immigrant statuses. You must explain, if at any point, you violated the terms of your visa, or overstayed your visa and became an undocumented alien.
- You should provide as much information as possible. We will use the information you provide to determine your registration status.
- Transsexual: For individuals who have had a sex change. You must indicate what gender you were born as, and attach documentation which indicates this as well.
- Reason why you failed to register with Selective Service upon reaching age 18 and before reaching age 26: Provide a written explanation for not registering with Selective Service.

(continued on next page)

SECTION 3:

Sign and date the letter. Return this letter to the address listed with copies of supporting documents, showing proof and anything else you may wish to include. Do not send original documents, as they will not be returned. You should retain a copy of all documents and correspondence submitted.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

- This form is designed to be printed for use, and cannot be completed online. After printing, complete the form, attach **ALL** supporting documentation, and mail to: Selective Service System, ATTN: SIL, PO Box 94638, Palatine, IL 60094-4638.
- This form is for use only by men born after December 31, 1959, who are not registered and are now 26 years old or older.
- This form is not a registration form, and by submitting it, you will not be registered.
- If you feel that you have already registered, verify your registration on our website (www.sss.gov), or call our Registration Information Office at (847) 688-6888 to obtain your Selective Service number.
- E-mail or fax transmissions of this form **will not** be accepted.
- We will issue a Status Information Letter based on the information you provide. This letter will clarify your status with Selective Service.
- If you are being denied a right, benefit, or privilege because you are not registered, submit a copy of your status information letter and an explanation letter for your failure to register, to the Agency administering the right, benefit, or privilege. That Agency will make the final determination regarding your eligibility. The Selective Service System does not determine your eligibility for any right, benefit, or privilege.

Request for Status Information Letter

I am requesting a Status Information Letter. I am a male who is not registered with Selective Service. I am now 26 years old or older, and was born after December 31, 1959.

Section 1:

Name _____
First Middle Last

List any other names used _____
Include any multiple last names

Current Mailing Address _____
Street Address
City State Zip Code

Social Security Number _____

Date of Birth _____
Month / Day / Year

Daytime Telephone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Section 2:

MILITARY:

List dates of active duty service: _____ to _____

List dates of reserve duty service: _____ to _____

List dates of military school service: _____ to _____

Military school attended: _____

Attach copy of DD214 (or DD Form 4 if still on active duty)

INCARCERATED, INSTITUTIONALIZED, HOSPITALIZED, OR CONFINED TO HOME:

List dates during which you were (circle appropriate situation) incarcerated, institutionalized, hospitalized, or confined to home. For multiple dates, list all.

_____ to _____ , _____ to _____ , _____ to _____

Attach proof of each instance

NON CITIZEN / ALIEN

Date you entered the United States for the first time: _____
Month / Day / Year

INS status at time of entry: _____

List all alien status(es) held since entering the country, and give dates:

(Attach separate sheet if necessary)

_____ to _____ USCIS Status: _____

_____ to _____ USCIS Status: _____

_____ to _____ USCIS Status: _____

_____ to _____ USCIS Status: _____

Attach copies of supporting documentation (see following information sheet for detailed instructions regarding this)

TRANSSEXUAL:

At birth my gender was: _____

Attach copy of birth certificate

REASON WHY YOU FAILED TO REGISTER WITH SELECTIVE SERVICE UPON REACHING AGE 18 AND BEFORE REACHING AGE 26:

Section 3:

Sign and date, then send this letter, **together with ALL copies of required documents and any other supporting information you may wish to include to:**

Selective Service System
ATTN: SIL
PO Box 94638
Palatine, IL 60094-4638

Signature

Date

No action can be taken until we receive ALL of the information/documentation needed. You should retain a copy of all documents and correspondence submitted to us. You should receive a response within 4 to 6 weeks.